



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**GARY SANITARY DISTRICT
Wastewater Treatment Plant Filter Rehabilitation Planning (PER Preparation)
SRF # CS182 258 01**

Date: November 7, 2008

Comments must be received by December 8, 2008

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) has determined that the project described here and in Addendum #4 (i.e., Agreement for Professional Services emailed to the SRF on October 9, 2008) will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a Preliminary Decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

The purpose of this notice is to seek input and comments on the SRF's preliminary decision that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted within 30 days of the above date to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
100 North Senate Ave.; IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204

What happens next?

If we do not receive substantive comments during the 30-day comment period which indicate that serious environmental issues exist, the SRF's preliminary decision will become final. If the scope of the project changes significantly, the final notice will be revoked and the project's environmental impacts will be reevaluated. In such a case, a new Categorical Exclusion may be issued for another 30-day comment period, or the SRF Loan Program will prepare an EA or EIS; we may also reaffirm our earlier decision of Categorical Exclusion by issuing a memo or letter to the project's State Revolving Fund Official Loan File.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Gary Sanitary District Addendum #4
Filter Building Rehabilitation Planning
3600 West 3rd Avenue.
Gary, IN 46406

SRF Project Number: CS 182 258 01

Authorized Representative: Ms. Luci Horton, Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Gary Sanitary District is located the northwest corner of Lake County. No construction is associated with this planning and design project.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The District's 20 filters have exceeded their useful life and need to be rehabilitated. Only three or four filters are working at any given time, which creates a severe process limitation during wet weather and contributes to violations of the District's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

The District rejected the no-action alternative, since under that alternative, the city would not pursue planning to address the problems with the filters; the substandard filter performance at the wwtp would continue and NPDES permit violations would continue. The District's selected alternative is to initiate planning to investigate how best to design the filter rehabilitation project.

No construction is associated with this project. This project will only prepare a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) which will present the design alternatives and selected plan for design. The actual construction project will be implemented later.

IV. PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Planning Services (PER Preparation)	\$ 78,000
TOTAL	\$ 78,000

B. To pay for the PER preparation, the District will use unspent funds remaining from the SRF loan which the city closed on August 29, 2000; these unspent funds totaled \$10,782,255 as of November 7, 2008. Prior to the final design on the proposed filter rehabilitation, the District will submit to the SRF Program its preliminary design for review and approval; the preliminary design will identify the recommended alternatives, including site information for environmental review coordination. Final design will not occur until after the SRF Loan Program completes environmental review coordination and approves the preliminary design. Construction will occur on a later date.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Since this project will consist only of PER preparation will be no negative environmental impacts. This project has no potential affect to historic sites. Our finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The SRF did not require the District to hold a public hearing, in part since the District will not need to close on another SRF loan to pay for the project.